



Approved For Release 2004/12/21 : CIA-RDP91M00696R000600180003-9

TO: The Record

DATE: 22 December

FROM: Richard Pipes

LOCATION: STAT

SUBJECT: Conversation with Mr. David Binder of the New York Times

CC:

On the evening of December 20 I received a telephone call from Mr. David Binder of the New York Times who wanted to know if I could "talk" about Project B. I told him I could not, whereupon he informed me that he had received a briefing by the Agency on this work. I told him that in view of this fact I would find out the following day whether I could or could not talk with him.

The following day, December 21, during a meeting between Team B and NFIB I discussed this conversation with Mr. ~~John~~ Lehman who told me that he had indeed talked to Mr. Binder and given some general information on the Project "to set the record straight." He said he had no objection to my talking with Mr. Binder in similar terms. Later that afternoon I met Mr. Binder at the airport prior to my departure for Boston and chatted with him about Team B. I avoided any mention of its findings or conclusions and restricted my comments to general background information. I was particularly keen on conveying to him that the Project was not intended to assail the CIA but should be viewed as a form of self-criticism initiated by the DCI and intended to improve the process of national estimates.

cc:

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MEMORANDUM FOR:

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In response to your query this morning, I have attached Pipes' memo for the record on his dealings with Binder. I did tell Pipes that I had backgrounded Binder on the procedural aspects of this matter. He asked me if this meant that he could talk to Binder himself. I told him that I did not think that there would be any problem with his confirming to Binder that such an exercise existed along with the arrangements under which it was being carried on. I told him I did not think that it was appropriate for any of us to discuss the substantive issues involved.

Richard Lehman  
D/DCI/NI

Attachment

Date 29 December 1976

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